

Office of the Attorney General State of Texas

DAN MORALES

April 26, 1995

Ms. Detra G. Hill Assistant City Attorney Criminal Law and Police Division City of Dallas 501 Police and Courts Building Dallas, Texas 75201

OR95-220

Dear Ms. Hill:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 30953.

The City of Dallas (the "city") received a request for a legal memorandum from the city attorney's office concerning a certain internal complaint. You assert that the city may withhold the requested memorandum based on section 552.101 and 552.107(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.107(1) states that information is excepted from required public disclosure if

it is information that the attorney general or an attorney of a political subdivision is prohibited from disclosing because of a duty to the client under the Rules of the State Bar of Texas.

This exception protects only the details of the substance of attorney-client communications, that is, only information that reveals attorney advice and opinion or client confidences. See Open Records Decision No. 574 (1990). We agree that the body of the legal memorandum contains attorney advice. Therefore, the city may withhold such advice from required public disclosure based on section 552.107(1) of the Government Code. The exception does not apply to the heading or closing of the memorandum, which, if desired by the requestor, must be released.

Having determined that the city may withhold the requested information based on section 552.107(1), we need not consider your section 552.101 claim. We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination under section 552.301 regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

Kay Guajardo

Assistant Attorney General Open Government Section

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Ref.: ID# 30953

Enclosures: Marked document